

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2787
OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans-Specific Edu-
3 cation for Tomorrow’s Health Professionals Act” or the
4 “Vet HP Act”.

5 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF
6 VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM FOR
7 CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UNDER-
8 GRADUATE STUDENTS.

9 It is the sense of Congress that the pilot program
10 described in section 3(a) should be designed to—

11 (1) increase the awareness, knowledge, and em-
12 pathy of future medical professionals toward the
13 medical conditions common to veterans;

14 (2) increase the diversity of the recruitment
15 pool of future physicians of the Department; and

16 (3) expand clinical observation opportunities for
17 all students by encouraging students of all back-
18 grounds to consider a career in medicine.

1 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PRO-**
2 **GRAM FOR CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UN-**
3 **DERGRADUATE STUDENTS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
5 Affairs shall carry out a pilot program for a one-year pe-
6 riod, beginning not later than August 15, 2021, to provide
7 certain students described in subsection (d) a clinical ob-
8 servation experience at medical centers of the Department
9 of Veterans Affairs.

10 (b) MEDICAL CENTER SELECTION.—The Secretary
11 shall carry out the pilot program under this section at not
12 fewer than five medical centers of the Department. In se-
13 lecting such medical centers, the Secretary shall ensure
14 regional diversity among such selected medical centers.

15 (c) CLINICAL OBSERVATION SESSIONS.—

16 (1) FREQUENCY AND DURATION.—In carrying
17 out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

18 (A) provide at least one and not more than
19 three clinical observation sessions at each med-
20 ical center selected during each calendar year;

21 (B) ensure that each clinical observation
22 session—

23 (i) lasts between four and six months;

24 and

25 (ii) to the extent practicable, begins

26 and ends concurrently with one or more

1 academic terms of an institution of higher
2 education (as defined in section 101 of the
3 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
4 1001)); and

5 (C) ensure that the clinical observation
6 sessions provided at a medical center have mini-
7 mal overlap.

8 (2) SESSIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that
9 the pilot program consists of clinical observation ses-
10 sions as follows:

11 (A) Each session shall allow for not fewer
12 than five students nor greater than 15 students
13 to participate in the session.

14 (B) Each session shall consist of not fewer
15 than 20 observational hours nor greater than
16 40 observational hours.

17 (C) A majority of the observational hours
18 shall be spent observing a practicing physician.
19 The other observational hours shall be spent in
20 a manner that ensures a robust, well rounded
21 experience that exposes the students to a vari-
22 ety of aspects of medical care and health care
23 administration.

24 (D) Each session shall provide a diverse
25 clinical observation experience commensurate

1 with the standard expectations for medical
2 school applications.

3 (3) CONSIDERATION OF AREAS WITH STAFFING
4 SHORTAGES.—In carrying out the pilot program, the
5 Secretary may consider providing clinical observation
6 sessions with physicians employed in occupations
7 with large staffing shortages, such as occupations
8 identified under section 7412 of title 38, United
9 States Code.

10 (d) STUDENTS.—

11 (1) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select to
12 participate in the pilot program under subsection (a)
13 students who are—

14 (A) nationals of the United States;

15 (B) enrolled in an accredited science or
16 medical program of study at an institution of
17 higher education; and

18 (C) referred by their institution of higher
19 education following an internal application proc-
20 ess.

21 (2) PRIORITY.—In making such selection, the
22 Secretary shall give priority to each of the following
23 four categories of students:

24 (A) Students who, at the time of the com-
25 pletion of their secondary education, resided in

1 a health professional shortage area (as defined
2 in section 332 of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 254e)).

4 (B) First generation college students (as
5 defined in section 402A(h)(3) of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

7 (C) Students who have been referred by
8 minority-serving institutions (as defined in sec-
9 tion 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of
10 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

11 (D) Veterans (as defined in section 101 of
12 title 38, United States Code).

13 (e) OTHER MATTERS.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
14 gram under this section, the Secretary shall—

15 (1) establish a formal status to facilitate the ac-
16 cess to medical centers of the Department by stu-
17 dent observers participating in the pilot program;

18 (2) establish standardized legal, privacy, and
19 ethical requirements for the student observers, in-
20 cluding with respect to—

21 (A) ensuring that no student observer pro-
22 vides any care to patients; and

23 (B) ensuring the suitability of a student to
24 participate in the pilot program to ensure that
25 the student poses no risk to patients;

1 (3) develop and implement a partnership strat-
2 egy with minority-serving institutions to encourage
3 referrals;

4 (4) create standardized procedures for student
5 observers;

6 (5) create an online information page about the
7 pilot program on the internet website of the Depart-
8 ment;

9 (6) publish on the online information page cre-
10 ated under paragraph 5 the locations of such cen-
11 ters, and other information on the pilot program,
12 not later than 180 days before the date on which ap-
13 plications are required to be submitted by potential
14 student observers;

15 (7) identify medical centers and specific clini-
16 cians participating in the pilot program;

17 (8) notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
18 of the House of Representatives and the Senate of
19 the medical centers selected under subsection (c)
20 within 30 days of selection, to facilitate program
21 awareness; and

22 (9) establish procedures to follow up with each
23 student observer to ascertain if the student was ac-
24 cepted into medical school.

1 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the com-
2 pletion of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Sec-
3 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
4 of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report
5 on the results of the pilot program, including—

6 (1) the number and demographics of all appli-
7 cants, those accepted to participate in the pilot pro-
8 gram, and those who completed the pilot program;
9 and

10 (2) if participating institutions of higher edu-
11 cation choose to administer satisfaction surveys that
12 assess the experience of those who completed the
13 pilot program, the results of any such satisfaction
14 surveys, provided at the discretion of the institution
15 of higher education.



